

TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 10-13 and 20-25 without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of these claims in subsequent divisional patent applications.

Please amend Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 14-16, and 19 as indicated hereinbelow.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid transcription promoter molecule ~~Mda-7~~ promoter capable of directing transcription of a heterologous coding sequence positioned downstream therefrom wherein the nucleic acid sequence of the promoter molecule is at least about 80% identical to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 from the thymidine at position 1 to the cytosine at position 2240, and wherein the promoter is exhibits one or more functional characteristic selected from the group consisting of:

C-1 (a) the promoter directs transcription of a second nucleic acid molecule, operably linked downstream of the promoter molecule, in HO-1 melanoma cells and the level of transcription of the second nucleic acid molecule increases when the HO-1 cells are exposed to interferon- β and mezerein at concentrations effective to induce differentiation of the HO-1 cells and for a period of time effective in inducing differentiation of the HO-1 cells ~~a promoter comprising the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4; and~~

(b) the promoter directs transcription of a second nucleic acid molecule, operably linked downstream of the promoter molecule, in MeWo melanoma cells and the level of transcription of the second nucleic acid molecule increases when the MeWo cells are exposed to interferon- β and mezerein at concentrations effective to induce differentiation of the MeWO cells and for a period of time effective in inducing differentiation of the MeWo cells ~~a promoter comprising a nucleotide~~

~~sequence functionally equivalent to the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1; and~~

~~(e) a promoter comprising a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to a sequence complementary to the promoter of (a) or (b) in a Southern hybridization reaction performed under stringent conditions.~~

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid transcription promoter molecule The promoter of claim 1, wherein the promoter which comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 from the thymidine at position 1 to the cytosine at position 2240.

3. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression construct effective in directing the transcription of a selected coding sequence which comprises:

(a) a promoter molecule Mda-7 promoter nucleotide sequence according to claim 1 or claim 2; and

(b) a coding sequence operably linked downstream to the promoter molecule, ~~whereby the coding sequence can be transcribed and translated in a host cell, and wherein~~ the promoter is heterologous to the coding sequence.

4. (Currently Amended) The recombinant expression construct of claim 3, wherein the ~~Mda-7~~ promoter molecule is a human *Mda-7* promoter.

5. (Currently Amended) The recombinant expression construct of claim 3, wherein the ~~human~~ *Mda-7* promoter comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1 from the thymidine (T) at position 1 -2241 to the cytosine (C) at position 2240 ~~9~~.

6. (Original) The recombinant expression construct of claim 3, wherein the coding sequence encodes a tumor suppressor polypeptide.

7. (Original) The recombinant expression construct of claim 6, wherein the tumor suppressor polypeptide is p21, retinoblastoma protein or p53.

8. (Currently Amended) An isolated host cell comprising the recombinant expression construct of claim 3.

9. (Currently Amended) The isolated host cell of claim 8, wherein the host cell is stably transformed with the recombinant expression construct of claim 3.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for expressing foreign DNA in a an isolated host cell comprising introducing into the host cell a gene transfer vector comprising ~~an *Mda-7* promoter~~ nucleotide sequence operably linked to a foreign DNA encoding a desired polypeptide or RNA, ~~wherein said foreign DNA is expressed~~ an isolated nucleic acid transcription promoter molecule wherein the nucleic acid sequence of the promoter molecule is at least about 80% identical to the nucleic acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 from the thymidine at position 1 to the cytosine at position 2240, and wherein the promoter exhibits one or more functional characteristic selected from the group consisting of: (a) the promoter directs transcription of a second nucleic acid molecule, operably linked downstream of the promoter molecule, in HO-1 melanoma cells and the level of transcription of the second nucleic acid molecule increases when the HO-1 cells are exposed to interferon- β and mezerein at concentrations effective to induce differentiation of the HO-1 cells and

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for a period of time effective in inducing differentiation of the HO-1 cells; and (b) the promoter directs transcription of a second nucleic acid molecule, operably linked downstream of the promoter molecule, in MeWo melanoma cells and the level of transcription of the second nucleic acid molecule increases when the MeWo cells are exposed to interferon- β and mezerein at concentrations effective to induce differentiation of the MeWO cells and for a period of time effective in inducing differentiation of the MeWo cells, wherein the promoter is operably linked to a foreign DNA molecule such that the foreign DNA molecule is downstream of the promoter, so that the foreign DNA is transcribed and expressed in the host cell.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid sequence of the promoter nucleotide sequence is identical to the sequence from position 1 -2241 to position 2240 of SEQ ID NO:1.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the nucleic acid sequence of the promoter is as set forth in nucleotide sequence is a nucleotide sequence functionally equivalent to the Mda-7 promoter nucleotide sequence from position -2241 to position 0 of SEQ ID NO:1.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the gene transfer vector encodes and expresses a reporter molecule.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the reporter molecule is selected from the group consisting of beta-galactosidase, luciferase and chloramphenicol acetyltransferase.

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19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the introducing is carried out by a means selected from the group consisting of adenovirus infection, liposome-mediated gene transfer, topical application to the cell, and microinjection.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)